

Amendments to the Specification

- 1) Please insert the following subtitle at page 1, below the title:

Background

- 2) Please insert the following subtitle and text at page 6, line 23:

Summary

In one aspect of the present invention a method for operating a cryogenic tunnel through which products to be chilled or deep-frozen pass is provided. This tunnel is equipped with means for injecting a cryogenic fluid as well as means for extracting, at a variable rate, some of the cold gases resulting from the vaporization of the fluid in the tunnel. The method includes obtaining a gas temperature, wherein this gas temperature comprises a value selected from the group consisting of the temperature of the gases in proximity to the entry to the tunnel, and the temperature of the gases in proximity to the exit to the tunnel, wherein this gas temperature is obtained from at least one gas temperature probe which is provided outside the tunnel, at a location selected from the group consisting of proximity to the tunnel entrance, and proximity to the tunnel exit. The method also includes obtaining an ambient temperature, wherein this ambient temperature is obtained from at least one ambient temperature probe which is provided outside the tunnel. The method also includes determining a first delta, wherein this first delta is the difference between the ambient temperature and the gas temperature. The method also includes comparing the value of the first delta with a first setpoint value. And the method includes controlling the extraction rate of the extraction means by feedback as a function of the result of the comparison in step d), in order to restore the value of the first delta to the setpoint value if necessary.

- 3) Please delete the text at page 10, lines 29 through 36, and insert the following subtitle and text:

Brief Description of the Drawings

For a further understanding of the nature and objects for the present invention, reference should be made to the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like elements are given the same or analogous reference numbers and wherein:

- Figure 1 illustrates a stylized view of a prior-art tunnel in longitudinal section;

- Figure 2 illustrates a stylized view in longitudinal section of a tunnel for carrying out the invention.

- 4) Please insert the following subtitle and text at page 10, after the above-inserted paragraph:

Description of Preferred Embodiments

In one aspect of the present invention a method for operating a cryogenic tunnel through which products to be chilled or deep-frozen pass is provided. This tunnel is equipped with means for injecting a cryogenic fluid as well as means for extracting, at a variable rate, some of the cold gases resulting from the vaporization of the fluid in the tunnel. The method includes obtaining a gas temperature, wherein this gas temperature comprises a value selected from the group consisting of the temperature of the gases in proximity to the entry to the tunnel, and the temperature of the gases in proximity to the exit to the tunnel, wherein this gas temperature is obtained from at least one gas temperature probe which is provided outside the tunnel, at a location selected from the group consisting of proximity to the tunnel entrance, and proximity to the tunnel exit. The method also includes obtaining an ambient temperature, wherein this ambient temperature is obtained from at least one ambient temperature probe which is provided outside the tunnel. The method also includes determining a first delta, wherein this first delta is the difference between the ambient temperature and the gas temperature. The method also includes comparing the value of the first delta with a first setpoint value. And the method includes controlling the extraction rate of the extraction means by feedback as a function of the result of the comparison in step d), in order to restore the value of the first delta to the setpoint value if necessary.

- 5) Please insert the following paragraph at page 14, line 5:

It will be understood that many additional changes in the details, materials, steps and arrangement of parts, which have been herein described in order to explain the nature of the invention, may be made by those skilled in the art within the principle and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the specific embodiments in the examples given above.

- 6) Please replace the subtitle at page 15, line 1, with the following text:

CLAIMS What is claimed is:

- 7) Please insert the following subtitle and text to new page 20, line 1:

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention is a method for operating a cryogenic tunnel through which products to be chilled or deep-frozen pass. This tunnel is equipped with means for injecting a cryogenic fluid and means for extracting the cold gases in the tunnel. The method includes obtaining an entry or an exit gas temperature from a gas temperature probe outside the tunnel in proximity to the tunnel entrance or exit. The method also includes obtaining an ambient temperature from an ambient temperature probe located outside the tunnel. The method also includes determining a first delta which is the difference between the ambient temperature and the gas temperature. And the method includes controlling the extraction rate of the extraction means by feedback as a function of the the temperature difference between the first delta and a set point, in order to restore the value of the first delta to the setpoint value if necessary.